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DE RUEHMU #0542/01 1531505
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4188
INFO RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC
RUEHZA/WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS MANAGUA 000542

STATE FOR WHA/CEN, EB/IFD/OIA, AND L/CID
STATE ALSO FOR WHA/EPSC
STATE PASS TO USTR
TREASURY FOR INL AND OWH

SIPDIS
SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ENNV](#) [ECON](#) [USTR](#) [KIDE](#) [NU](#)
SUBJECT: NICARAGUA: GON SEEKS MORE USG COOPERATION ON ADVANCING U.S. CITIZEN PROPERTY CLAIMS

REFS: A) MANAGUA 537, B) 02 MANAGUA 877, C) MANAGUA 160, D) MANAGUA 002, E) MANAGUA 465

SUMMARY

1. (SBU) During the May 28 Property Working Group meeting, Ruth Zapata, Head of the Office of Assessment and Indemnification, requested Embassy assistance in encouraging U.S. citizen claimants to settle 35 claims with final offers before the end of this waiver year. Jeanette Garcia, President of the National Confiscations Review Commission, asked Econoff to contact 52 claimants whose claims were dismissed for administrative reasons to submit documents to advance their cases. Garcia also stated that the GON would compensate a U.S. citizen whose property had been reportedly confiscated. The GON appears eager to resolve more claims this year than last to improve its prospects for a waiver. End Summary.

GON SEEKS EMBASSY ASSISTANCE TO ADVANCE CLAIMS

2. (SBU) On May 28, Econoff met with Ruth Zapata, Head of the Office of Assessment and Indemnification (OCI), Jeanette Garcia, President of the National Confiscations Review Commission (CNRC), Magally Bravo, Executive Coordinator for property issues for the Attorney General's Office, and Rebeca Zuniga, Coordinator of the Liaison Office for U.S. Citizen Claims, for the monthly Property Working Group meeting. GON officials and the Property Office Staff reviewed 80 U.S. claims on a case-by-case basis to discuss next steps for favorable resolution. Zapata told us that the GON is working diligently on advancing U.S. citizen claims and has adopted a more flexible approach in resolving cases. She acknowledged that Attorney General Hernan Estrada is under pressure to resolve as many claims as possible before the end of the waiver year (Ref A). She asked Econoff to encourage U.S. claimants to settle their claims with pending offers. She asserted that 35 cases have final settlement offers, including the 28 claims of U.S. citizen Juan Barreto, whose family's property is under Nicaraguan Army control (Ref B).

3. (SBU) Zuniga added that the GON is advancing claims that had been previously dismissed under Decrees 3 (1979) and 38 (1979), which authorize FLEXIBILITY ON ADMINISTRATIVE DISMISSALS

4. (SBU) Garcia asked Econoff to contact 52 U.S. claimants whose claims were dismissed for administrative reasons, (e.g., a lack of proof of c PROPERTY CONFISCATION AGAINST A U.S. CITIZEN

5. (SBU) Econoff raised the reported property confiscation against U.S. citizen Leonidas Guadamuz (Ref E). Garcia said the CNRC would be willing COMMENT

6. (SBU) The GON appears eager to resolve more claims this year than last to improve its prospects for a waiver. That should not be too difficult CALLAHAN